




OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 2010

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council
Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders

FROM: Councilmember Todd Gloria 

SUBJECT: Proposed Ordinance to Protect Small and Neighborhood Businesses

The neighborhoods in my Council District and throughout the City of San Diego rely on healthy commercial districts to add vibrancy and improve the quality of life in the community. The importance of these districts, including small businesses, is recognized by the City throughout the General Plan and related planning documents, and the City and Redevelopment Agency have directed significant resources to renew and revitalize many of these commercial areas.

I have long been concerned about potential threats to San Diego's neighborhood business districts that are posed by supercenters, which are defined as big box stores of over 90,000 square feet with more than 10% of floor sales area dedicated to non-taxable goods. Supercenters have been shown to undermine the usability of local commercial centers, generate increased levels of traffic, and increase the potential for neighborhood blight.

In light of these concerns, I am committed to pursuing legislative protections for small and neighborhood businesses. I am attaching a draft of a proposed ordinance that would promote and preserve small and neighborhood business areas. It would require, as part of the discretionary review process, that superstores prepare an Economic Impact Analysis so that the City Council can make a finding as to whether or not a superstore would create a material adverse economic impact on a neighborhood.

I intend to schedule this issue at the June 23, 2010 meeting of the Land Use and Housing Committee.

TG:sjh

Attachment